

Appln. No.: 10/611,765
Amendment Dated January 25, 2008
Reply to Office Communication of December 27, 2007

SOK-101US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-23 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Communication. Claims 17 and 18 are indicated to contain allowable subject matter, and have now been rewritten in independent format to remove their dependency from claim 1, which is canceled herewith. Claim 2 was objected to, and is canceled herewith. Withdrawn claims 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 21-23 are also canceled herewith, thereby overcoming the objection to claims 9, 14, 15, 21 and 23. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the withdrawn claims in a divisional application. All of the remaining claims are amended herewith as needed to depend from allowable claim 17, and thus these claims should also be allowed.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early favorable consideration is therefore respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact either of the Applicant's representatives, named below, if it is judged that a telephone interview may expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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RAD/FPT/gdb:

Dated: January 25, 2008

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: January 25, 2008.


Gayle D. Bay